

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

(By Delegates Ennis, Hamilton, Romine, Azinger
and White)

[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
Committee on Constitutional Revision then the
Judiciary.]

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West
Virginia, amending section three, article VI thereof, relating
to increasing the terms of members of the House of Delegates
from two years to four years; increasing the terms of members
of the State Senate from four to six years; numbering and
designating the proposed amendment; and providing a summarized
statement of the purpose of the proposed amendment.

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia, two thirds of
the members elected to each house agreeing thereto:*

That the question of ratification or rejection of an amendment
to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia be submitted to
the voters of the state at the next general election to be held in
the year two thousand ~~and~~ twelve, which proposed amendment is that
section three, article VI thereof be amended and reenacted to read
as follows:

ARTICLE VI. THE LEGISLATURE

§3. Senators and Delegates -- Terms of Office.

1 Senators shall be elected for the term of ~~four~~ six years and
2 delegates for the term of ~~two~~ four years, beginning with the first
3 general election after January 1, 2012. The senators ~~first~~
4 ~~elected,~~ shall continue to divide themselves into two classes, one
5 senator from every district being assigned to each class; ~~and of~~
6 ~~these classes, the first to be designated by lot in such manner as~~
7 ~~the Senate may determine, shall hold their seats for two years,~~
8 ~~and the second for four years, so that after the first election,~~
9 ~~one half of the senators shall be elected biennially~~ with each
10 senator serving a six-year term commencing after the regularly
11 scheduled expiration of each four-year term, after January 1, 2012.

12 Resolved further, That in accordance with the provisions of
13 article eleven, chapter three of the Code of West Virginia, 1991,
14 as amended, such proposed amendment is hereby numbered "Amendment
15 No. 1" and designated as the "Increase of Terms of Members of the
16 Legislature Amendment," and the purpose of the proposed amendment
17 is summarized as follows: "To increase the terms of members of the
18 House of Delegates from two years to four years; and to further
19 increase the terms of members of the State Senate from four to six
20 years."

NOTE: The purpose of this Resolution is to propose an amendment to the State Constitution that would increase the terms of members of the House of Delegates from two to four years, and would increase the terms of members of the State Senate from four to six years.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present Constitution and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.